

## **Small Group Discussion Questions**

### **Charleston County**

**What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?**

- CCSD Coherent Curriculum
- Superintendents dedication to adequate funding
- MGAP, PGAP- Acceleration Program
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academies
- Establishment of more Pre-K classes
- BOWs-Beyond Our Walls-Volunteer and community support and resources for schools
- Countdown to Kindergarten
- Foster Grandparents Program
- Career Pathways
- United Way Success by Six
- Books @ Birth
- Charleston County going back to vocational education in high schools
- Education Foundation
- 62% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders in Career Academics Pathways
- Four school districts in three counties
- College of CHS-train the teachers; entrepreneurship in classrooms
- NFTE program
- Colleges are doing a better job of preparing teachers for different environments
- Teacher retention on the rise
- Leadership Training

**What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?**

- Lack of support to assist high school students in transitioning into the work world
- Low teacher expectations
- Schools are not the center of the community
- How welcoming are schools to parents?
- Leadership
- Laws that reflect an education that is minimally adequate
- Social and Economic environment
- "Willing to accept failure"
- Board of trustees
- Lack of commitment from educators to early childhood education
- Public perception of education
- Disconnect between elected leaders and community over priorities

**List the 5 most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.**

- Making education a priority and valued by all with the dollars to support it
- Education is everybody's business
- Schools are in crisis so we need to respond to this crisis
- Create opportunities to bring parents into the schools-building parents' capacity for involvement; building parents' comfort level
- Will and intent to solve the problem
- Educating the public about what's going on in public school
- Visual continuum of birth-education onward
- School board members should care more about the kids future than taxes
- More collaboration among the hired and schools

**List the 5 most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.**